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Docket No.: 4266-0122PUS1  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Stefan SCHERINGER et al.

Application No.: 10/581,245

Confirmation No.: 1788

Filed: January 11, 2007

Art Unit: 1746

For: DISHWASHER WITH REGULATABLE HEAT  
RECOVERY

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**L E T T E R**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Subsequent to the filing of the above-identified application on January 11, 2007, attached hereto is an English translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/409) that should be made of record in the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

MAR 29 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By \_\_\_\_\_

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Attachment(s)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

**PCT**

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL  
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON PATENTABILITY  
(CHAPTER I OR CHAPTER II)  
OF THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

(PCT Rules 44bis, 30 and 72)  
Isenbrück Bösl Hörschler I  
VWCMHNT Huhn, Patentanwälte  
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To:

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ALLEMAGNE

B 1	
B 2	
B 3	
Sekr	gc
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Ablg.	

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

11 January 2007 (11.01.2007) 24. Jan. 2007

Applicant's or agent's file reference

ME62581PC

First:

Vorfirst:

**IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION**

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/000446

WVV:

International filing date (day/month/year)

18 January 2005 (18.01.2005)

Applicant

MEIKO MASCHINENBAU GMBH &amp; CO. KG et al

**1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.**

- The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I).
- The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

**2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the designated or elected Offices.**

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following designated or elected Offices requiring such translation:

KR

The following designated or elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

AE, AG, AL, AM, AP, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EA, EC, EE, EG, EP, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OA, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

**3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).**

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

**It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned within the applicable time limit (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.**

The International Bureau of WIPO  
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1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

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**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**  
**PCT**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**  
 (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>ME62581PC</b>	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. <b>PCT/EP2005/000446</b>	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) <b>18.01.2005</b>	Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) <b>26.01.2004</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>A47L15/48, A47L15/24</b>		
Applicant <b>MEIKO MASCHINENBAU GMBH &amp; CO. KG</b>		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>3</u> sheets, as follows:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</li> </ul>
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</li> </ul>

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/000446

## Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
  - publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
  - international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
- the international application as originally filed/furnished
- the description:  
pages 1-14 as originally filed/furnished  
pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- the claims:  
nos. \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished  
nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
nos.\* 1-16 received by this Authority on 11.01.2006 with telefax  
nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- the drawings:  
sheets 1/2, 2/2 as originally filed/furnished  
sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
  - the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
  - the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
  - the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
  - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
4.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
  - the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
  - the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
  - the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
  - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/000446

Box No. V	<b>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</b>
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## 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 16	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 - 16	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 16	YES
	Claims		NO

## 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

This report makes reference to the following document:

D1: DE 1 832 502 U

Document D1, which is considered to represent the closest prior art, discloses (figure) a similar pass-through dishwasher from which the subject matter of claim 1 differs in that, in the latter, the direction of the flow of media out of the media nozzles in the rinsing zone, clear rinsing zone and drying zone can be varied in a regulated manner.

The subject matter of claim 1 is thus novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The present invention can therefore be considered to address the problem of providing an alternative for affecting the flow of air within the dishwasher, in such a way that sufficient dry air is always available in the drying zone, and that no clouds of steam (water vapours) are formed in the area of the inlet and outlet of the dishwashers, and no steam exits the dishwasher.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/000446

**Box No. V      Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

The solution to this problem, as proposed in claim 1 of the present application, involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons: the above-mentioned nozzles cannot be directly derived from D1 and do not appear to represent an obvious solution for affecting the flow of air within the dishwasher.

Claims 2-16 are dependent on claim 1 and thus also meet the PCT novelty and inventive step requirements.